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URGENT PROBLEMS OF THE USSR FISH INDUSTRY

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The Communist Party and the Soviet government, showing tireless concern for the welfare of the people, planned and are accomplishing in 1954 a program of sharp increase in the production of food products and the improvement of its quality. Great and responsible tasks have been placed before the fish industry with regard to this decided increase in the production of food products.

During recent years, the fish industry received a great number of fishing, transport, and receiving fleets which were equipped with modern machinery. The number of fish-processing enterprises, canneries, and refrigeration plants was increased. Port facilities were expanded, considerably increasing labor mechanization in unloading and fish processing.

The creation of a large sea and ocean fishing fleet permitted the mastery of new fishing regions. For example, in 1947, 9,000 metric quintals of herring were caught by Soviet fishermen in the North Atlantic, and in 1953 more than one million metric quintals were caught. The herring catch in the Sea of Okhotsk also increased during this period.

However, as of 29 March 1954, the rate of increase in the fish catch was far from satisfactory. The USSR fish industry had not fulfilled its state plans for a number of years.

What are the reasons for this lag in the fish industry? First of all, the operation of the fishing fleet is inefficiently directed. Up to 29 March 1954, the idle time of boats being repaired, unloaded, or refueled had been unreasonably great. Boat wrecks were allowed and the schedule for operation at sea established for the boats was not followed. By March 1954, the necessary working and state discipline had still not been applied in the fishing fleet. There was a continual cadre turnover.

In March 1954, the Murmansk Trawler Fleet (chief, Kireyev), the fishing fleet of Glavrybsakhprom (Main Administration of Fish Industry in Sakhalinskaya Oblast, chief, Lushnikov), and the Krymskaya Oblast Trust (director, Buryachenko) were operating unsatisfactorily.

Fishing kolkhozes play an important part in the USSR fish catch. In March 1954, almost all of them were serviced by MRSs (Motorized Fishing Stations). However, the main administrations of the fish industry were not devoting the necessary attention to the MRSs. Many stations were not fulfilling fishing plans and were not becoming true organizers of kolkhoz fishing. At that time, there were not enough persons with higher and secondary specialized educations among leaders, and engineering and technical workers of MRSs.

During recent years, workers of the fish industry eased up in their efforts to increase the catch of the more valuable fish, such as river salmon in the Barentsovo Sea, winter dorse in the White Sea, eels in the Baltic Sea, chinook in Kamchatka waters, etc. While absorbed in catching sprat and anchovies, fishermen of the Caspian and Azov-Black Sea basins relaxed in their efforts to catch large net fish -- Kerchenskiy herring, rybets, and shemaya.

In March, work was being conducted inefficiently even for production of high-quality products of the most valuable types of fish. For example, the

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Kol'skiy Trust was processing river salmon, chiefly in the highly salted form. In 1953, fishing organizations of the Caspian Basin processed 22.5 percent of its total pie perch catch in the highly salted form. Too often, industry enterprises were salting fish and forgetting all about other methods of processing fish. In 1953, the fish industry completely fulfilled the fish-salting production plan. At the same time, the industry fell short of plan quotas for canned fish by 12 percent, smoked fish by 16 percent, and frozen fish by 32 percent.

The successful solution to problems of the fish industry greatly depends on the timely fulfillment of a large volume of capital construction. In March 1954, the situation was bad regarding the construction of new enterprises and putting them into operation. Construction was particularly lagging in refrigeration plants and salting facilities in the Far East, in plants for artificial breeding of commercial fish in the Caspian and Azov-Don basins, and in living quarters in Murmanskaya Oblast, Sakhalin, and Kamchatka.

These were the principal shortcomings in the fish industry operation in March 1954. The duty of all Soviet fishermen is to eliminate these shortcomings in the shortest period of time and to overcome the lag of the fish industry.

The most important task in 1954 in improving the operation of the fishing fleet is to eliminate the idle time of fishing boats. It is necessary to obtain a larger fish catch from each vessel by utilizing the methods of outstanding crews. It is very important to master new fishing regions and to improve fishing explorations. To do this, it will be necessary to increase the number of research boats and to equip them with the latest navigational techniques, hydroacoustical devices, and radio communication facilities.

The fish industry has rich reserves available. To bring these reserves into use, it is necessary first of all to raise the productivity of lagging fishing boats to the level of outstanding ones. The need for improvement along this line can be seen in the following data. In 1953, the Kirov Trawler of the Murmansk Trawler Fleet caught 47,000 metric quintals of fish. At the same time, the Anadyr' Trawler, operating under the same conditions and having equal capacity and fishing mechanisms, caught only 33,000 metric quintals of fish. During the year, Trawler No 189 (average-size trawler) caught 10,000 metric quintals of herring, while a similar trawler, No 838, caught only 5,600 metric quintals. The Astrakhanets Seiner in the Caspian Sea caught 5,300 metric quintals of fish, while its sister ship No 810 caught only 2,100 metric quintals.

The fish catch must also be increased by perfecting fishing equipment, particularly the trawl; by increasing storm-resistance of stationary sea nets; and by completely mechanizing river net fishing, particularly in the Volga, Don, Ural, and the rivers of Siberia and the Far East. At the same time, work of the fish-receiving fleet must be improved and receiving piers must be mechanized.

In March 1954, intensified preparation for the spring fishing season was under way in all fishing basins. For many basins, this season is of decisive importance and actually determines the fulfillment of the yearly fishing plan. But in March, many fishing organizations were lagging in their preparations for the season.

In March the following organizations were slowly reconditioning the fleet, the refrigeration plants, and the canneries: Glavkaspribprom

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(Main Administration of Fish Industry in the Caspian Basin, chief, Goryunov); Glavprimorribprom (Main Administration of Fish Industry in Primorskiy Kray, chief, Isayenko); and the Ministry of Food Products Industry Latvian SSR (deputy minister, Bude). Many main administrations and trusts were obtaining ice inefficiently, and conducting operations for building and repair of fishing equipment in an inefficient manner.

An urgent task, to catch 26 percent more fish than in 1953, confronts the fish industry and fishing kolkhoz workers in the form of the 1954 plan. The fulfillment of this great and responsible task will promote a further improvement in the well-being of the Soviet people.

Production of fish products of improved assortment must increase considerably. In 1954, production of refrigerated fish is to increase 54.1 percent, frozen fish by 68.5 percent, frozen filets by 64.2 percent, salted herring by 48.6 percent, cured and dried fish by 55.2 percent, smoked fish by 44.4 percent, and cured filets by 59.1 percent.

In March, many fishing organizations were developing socialist competitions for the fulfillment of the 1954 plan and above-plan production. Fish industry and fishing kolkhoz workers of Murmanskaya Oblast pledged to catch 165,000 metric quintals of fish above the 1954 plan. Oblast fishermen challenged fishermen of Astrakhanskaya Oblast in a socialist competition and the challenge was accepted.

The success of the struggle for an all-around increase in the fish catch greatly depends on how problems concerning further technical equipping of the fish industry will be decided in the central apparatus of the Ministry of Food Products Industry USSR and how aid will be given to production organizations. In March, there were many shortcomings in this respect. Up to this time, ministry administrations directed the fish industry operation by bureaucratic methods, not deciding problems of its development for months. For example, the Main Administration of Food Industry Supply (chief, Uporov), the Fleet Administration (chief, Stepanov), the Working Cadres, Labor and Wages Administration (chief, Kuropatkin), and the Technical Administration (chief, Petrov) violated established time periods for fulfilling a number of important assignments connected with further development of the fish industry.

By March 1954, the political administration of the fish industry fleet had been set up in the Ministry of Food Products Industry USSR. This unit was called on to organize mass political work among sailors of the fishing and transport fleet directed toward strengthening the state and labor discipline, utilization of experience of foremost crews, and elimination of work stoppages and boat wrecks.

The fish industry needs aid from a number of ministries and departments. The Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy USSR must assure timely shipment of wire hawser, which is extremely important in the operation of trawlers. Irregularity of wire hawser shipments leads to work stoppages of large fishing boats. Moreover, the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy must improve the quality of tin which it supplies to the canneries, and must set up production of rolled prime tin plate. The Ministry of Maritime and River Fleet USSR is to allot the necessary quantity of boats for servicing herring fishing facilities in the North Atlantic, and to improve freight transfer for the fish industry and export of fish from enterprises of the Far East. Freight transfer for the spring fishing season and the smooth shipment of fish products, particularly from such points as Murmansk, Astrakhan, Kaliningrad, and others greatly depends on the Ministry of Railways.

In March 1954, the Ministry of Construction was unsatisfactorily conducting work for the fish industry. A number of important construction

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projects were dragged out over a long period of time through the fault of the ministry. Up to this time, the Ministry of Timber and Paper Industry USSR was inadequately supplying lumber, and by March lumber shipments were particularly poor. The Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry USSR was not supplying the demand of seine-knitting factories for capron fiber used in the manufacture of fishing equipment.

It is necessary to improve the organization of fishing kolkhoz labor and to stiffen the discipline in fishing kolkhozes. Local party and Soviet organizations must aid the fish industry in regard to this matter. The fishing section of Tsentrosoyuz (Central Council of Consumer Cooperatives) must improve trade and public catering in fishery regions, and particularly in fishing sectors and on distant expeditions.

In March 1954, the fish industry was taking every measure to fulfill the assignments placed on it by the party and the government to increase the fish catch, expand production, and improve the quality of fish products.

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